

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/15/2015

TO: Local Units of Government

FROM: Forrest Williams – Fire Safety Supervisor

SUBJECT: Public School Inspections by Local Jurisdictions

BACKGROUND

Minnesota Statute §299F.47 allows fire departments, as local units of government, to conduct inspections of public school buildings if inspections were conducted by the jurisdiction prior to the statute's adoption. [Click here to view MN §299F.47.](#)

REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL INSPECTIONS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ITEM	MEASURE/DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE
Inspected schools between January 1, 1987 and January 1, 1990	Documentation of school inspections conducted during the prescribed time period (1987 to 1990)	Required by MN §299F.47
Inspection frequency	Once every 3-years	Required by MN §299F.47
Resource documents	Copies of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2007 Minnesota State Fire Code (2006 IFC + amendments)• 2007 Minnesota State Building Code (2006 IBC + state amendments)• NFPA 13 (2010 edition)• NFPA 58 (2011 edition)• NFPA 72 (2010 edition)	Adopted codes and standards necessary to conduct comprehensive fire safety inspections

ITEM	MEASURE/DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE
Training	Completion of the State Fire Marshal Division's school inspection training course	Demonstrate competency and qualifications
Certification of fire inspectors	Fire Inspector II certification (MN Fire Service Board or NFPA)	Demonstrate competency and qualifications
Agree to school inspection responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign written agreement with State Fire Marshal to conduct inspections • Complete inspection responsibilities even if funding method changes • Submit detailed inspection reports using the inspection application software provided by the State Fire Marshal • Inspect to and enforce the provisions of the Minn. State Fire Code • Adhere to SFM code interpretations • Variances must be approved by the State Fire Marshal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the intent and requirements of MN §299F.47 • Ensure consistency and continuity of inspections

INSPECTION FEES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS (NON-CHARTER)

Local jurisdictions may charge school districts \$0.014 per square foot for each school building inspected. These rates shall include two follow-up inspections or on-site consultations. If additional follow-up inspections or consultations are needed, the local jurisdiction may charge \$0.005 per square foot for each additional follow-up inspection to each applicable building in which a follow-up inspection is needed.

INSPECTION FEES FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Local jurisdictions may charge charter schools \$100 for each school building inspected. This rate shall include two follow-up inspections or on-site consultations. If additional follow-up inspections or consultations are needed, the local jurisdiction may charge \$50 for each additional follow-up inspection to each applicable building in which a follow-up inspection is needed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact:

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